

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A chemically modified double stranded short interfering ~~nucleic acid~~RNA (~~siNA~~) molecule (siRNA) comprising a sense strand and an antisense strand wherein:
 - a. each strand of said ~~siNA~~siRNA molecule is about 18 to about 27 nucleotides in length; and
 - b. the antisense strand of said ~~siNA~~siRNA molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence of about 18 to about 27 nucleotides that is complementary to a portion of an Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) RNA encoded by SEQ ID NO: 674; and
 - c. the sense strand is complementary to the antisense strand and comprises a portion of said HBV RNA of about 18 to about 27 nucleotides; and
 - d. about 100% of the nucleotides in one or both strands of said ~~siNA~~siRNA molecule are chemically modified nucleotides.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~siRNA molecule of claim 1, wherein said ~~siNA~~siRNA molecule comprises one or more ribonucleotides.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)
13. (Canceled)
14. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNAsiRNA~~ molecule of claim 1, wherein one or more purine nucleotides present in said sense strand are 2'-deoxy purine nucleotides.
15. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNAsiRNA~~ molecule of claim 1, wherein one or more pyrimidine nucleotides present in said sense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
16. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNAsiRNA~~ molecule of claim 1, wherein the sense strand includes a terminal cap moiety at a 5'-end, a 3'-end, or both of the 5' and 3' ends of the sense strand.
17. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNAsiRNA~~ molecule of claim 16, wherein said terminal cap moiety is an inverted deoxy abasic moiety.
18. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNAsiRNA~~ molecule of claim 1, wherein one or more pyrimidine nucleotides present in said antisense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.
19. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNAsiRNA~~ molecule of claim 1, wherein one or more purine nucleotides present in said antisense strand are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.
20. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNAsiRNA~~ molecule of claim 1, wherein one or more purine nucleotides present in said antisense strand comprise 2'-deoxy[[-]] purine nucleotides.
21. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNAsiRNA~~ molecule of claim 1, wherein said antisense strand comprises a terminal phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage at the 3' end of said antisense strand.
22. (Canceled)
23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)
26. (Canceled)
27. (Canceled)
28. (Canceled)
29. (Canceled)
30. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~siRNA molecule of claim 1, wherein said antisense strand includes a terminal phosphate group.
31. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising the ~~siNA~~siRNA molecule of claim 1 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
32. (Canceled)
33. (Currently Amended) The ~~siNA~~siRNA molecule of claim 1, wherein said chemically modified nucleotides have one or more chemical modifications selected from the groups consisting of phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage, 2'-O-methyl ribonucleotide, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro ribonucleotide, 2'-deoxy ribonucleotide, universal base nucleotide, 5-C-methyl nucleotide, and inverted deoxyabasic modifications.